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brought into force with effect from October 1953. The Director of Public Instruction has brought to the notice of the Government that, in view of the enormous additional clerical work involved in the offices of the three District Educational Officers in Malabar and also of certain procedural difficulties raised by the treasuries, it has not been practicable to implement the scheme so far. Necessary additional staff to cope with the increased work is being sanctioned for the offices of the District Educational Officers and steps to meet the difficulties raised by the treasuries are also being taken. The new scheme will be put into effect from February 1954 in respect of the grants payable for the month of January 1954. The payment of grants for the months of October to December 1953 will be made through the managements as hitherto. Instructions in this regard are being issued to the Director of Public Instruction.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, is it a fact that some of the Departmental Officers are trying to wreck the whole system, on the pretext that it involves extra labour? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I can assure the hon. Member that we will not allow any officer to wreck any policy enunciated by Government."

Coupe cutting in the forests of Gingee taluk.

* 231 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the purpose of coupe cutting in the forests; and

(*b*) the benefit obtained so far in the coupe-cutting areas in the forest of Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The purposes of coupe cutting in the forests are as follows :—

(1) to exploit the forests for fuel to a limited extent, having due regard to sylvicultural principles;

(2) to supply the agricultural and domestic needs of surrounding population (such as fuel, small timber for making agricultural implements like plough, yoke, etc.) without unduly straining the resources of the forest and in conformity with principles of forest conservancy;

(3) to quickly improve the quality of the forest by regenerating them by coppice method. This is a very inexpensive method and involves the removal of old trees and the planting of valuable, useful and quick-growing species.

" (*b*) Although this concession was allowed in the best interests of the ryots in South Arcot district, from 1949–50 onwards it was found that its benefits were not fully availed of by the ryots.''

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SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" பலன் தரக்கூடிய மரங்களில்லாமல், புதர்கள் நிறைந்த காடுகளையுடைய செஞ்சி தாலுகாவில் இதைப் போன்ற கூப்புக்களை வெட்டவிடுவதால் பலன் இல்லை. ஆகவே, மேற்கொண்டும் வெட்டக்கூடாது என்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, as I have already stated in answer to another question by the hon. Member, Government are fully aware that coupe cutting does not yield substantial revenue. However, coupe cutting is permitted with a view to help the agriculturists to have fuel for their domestic purposes and also to secure to them some wood for making agricultural implements."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has explained that coupe cutting is meant for the benefit of the small dwellers in that taluk. Is he in receipt of a complaint which was sent three days back wherein it was brought to his notice that the Forest guards and the Range Officers had man-handled the agriculturists who went to cut these twigs from the forest and almost put them in a very inconvenient position by removing their clothes, burning their clothes and making them go round the fire? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" How does that relate to this question? "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" It happened in Gingee taluk, Sir. May I know whether the Hon. Minister is in receipt of the complaint and what action has been taken on it? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I received the complaint only last evening from another hon. Member and I am just sending it to the department for making proper enquiries, in order to take necessary action in the matter."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் ஒரு கேள்விக்குப் பதிலளிக்கும்போது, ' சர்க்கார் கொடுத்த சலுகைகளை அங்குள்ள விவசாயிகள் சரியாகப் பயன்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுவதில்லை ' என்று சொன்னார். அதற்கு இரண்டு காரணங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. சில்லரை அதிகாரிகள் விவசாயிகளைத் தொந்தரவு படுத்துவதாக இருக்கவேண்டும் அல்லது அந்தச் சலுகைகள் அங்குள்ள கிராமவாசிகளுக்குத் தெரியாமல் இருக்கவேண்டும். இரண்டில் ஏதாவது ஒன்றுதான் காரணமாக இருக்க வேண்டும். சில்லரை அதிகாரிகள் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய தொந்தரவுகளைத் தடுப்பதற்கும், கிராமத்திலுள்ள அந்த விவசாயிகளுக்கு இந்தச் சலுகையைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளக்கூடிய அளவுக்குப் பிரசாரம் செய்வதற்கும் சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, if there are any cases of misbehaviour on the part of the officers, I assure the hon. Member that Government would take necessary action in the matter. I can also tell the hon. Member that there is no need for any specific on propaganda; the villagers are quite well aware of that. But the trouble is that ryots prefer to consume smuggled woods that are available at two annas or three annas per headload, as against a rupee which would be the cost of the wood cut and sold under the coupe cutting scheme."

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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is coupe cutting regulated and controlled or is it allowed to be done at will? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Of course, it is controlled. We auction it and the contractor cuts and sells."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Are the Government aware that in Malabar district, these coupe cutting operations are auctioned to big timber dealers who do not serve local agriculturists? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" That is another thing. The question we are now discussing relates to a particular district."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, clause (*a*) of the question is general, viz., ' the purpose of coupe cutting in the forests ' and only clause (*b*) is about a particular district."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer the question, I have no objection. Is he prepared? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that in Malabar district, these coupe cutting operations are auctioned to big timber traders and the poor ryots do not at all receive firewood, since the wood cut by these big traders is transported in lorries and sold in blackmarket prices in towns? In order to carry out the real purpose of Government in the matter of coupe cutting, would Government see that such big dealers do not exploit the situation and carry aay the entire profit? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, as the hon. Member himself is aware, Malabar should feel proud that it is endowed with wealthy forests, and when we have to auction the cutting of different coupes, we cannot but put it under the tender system or under auction; and in an auction, we cannot restrict that only the poor ryot or poor person should bid while it is the highest bidder who gets it; therefore we cannot regulate that only the poor people should get it. Even if the poor people take the auction, there is no guarantee that they would abide by certain restrictions or regulations in regard to disposal of the wood."

SRI S. **RAMALINGAM** :—" விவசாயிகள் திருட்டுத்தனமாக கொண்டு வரக்கூடிய விறகுகளைத்தான் வாங்குவதற்குப் பிரியப்படுகிறார்கள். அப்படி திருட்டுத்தனமாக வருவது பாண்டிச்சேரியிலிருந்து வருகிறதா அல்லது 'ரிசர்வ்' காடுகளிலிருந்து வருகிறதா ? ரிசர்வ் காடுகளிலிருந்து வருவதாக இருந்தால், அதற்குக் காரணம் அதிகாரிகளாகவும் இருக்கலாம் அல்லவா ? அதைத் தடுப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கையை சர்க்கார் எடுப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I think, Sir, it must be from the forests in Gingee taluk or where coupe cutting is done. If there is smuggling, I do admit that officers might have been remiss. But those who purchase smuggled wood are also equally responsible. We should, of course, take necessary steps to avoid it."

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that these coupe cuttings are auctioned and the contractors in turn sell it to agriculturists. Do the Government fix the rate at which these are to be sold to agriculturists and have the Government any machinery to see to that? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, as I said just a while ago in regard to Gingee coupe cutting, my information is that the price fixed for selling to agriculturists is one rupee per unit. But I have seen that no one has so far purchased from the contractor at this rate. Rather they are able to get at two annas or three annas per headload from smuggled goods."

9-30 a.m. DR. K. B. MENON :—" In view of the fact that it is so very essential for agriculture, will the Government allow headloads free as is allowed in some other States? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think it is practicable because it cannot be controlled."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that in Malabar the sale and the operations of forest coupes are regulated by certain conditions and rules stated in the contract agreement? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that while Malabar is rich in timber wealth, there is also extensive poverty, will the Hon. Minister see that these coupe cutting operations are done in small parcels instead of extensively so that the poor ryots may have a chance of buying small parcels for coupe cutting instead of allowing the big trader to knock away the whole when big areas are sold for coupe cutting? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall consider the suggestion but we have also to see whether this will not lead to abuses in a worse form."

State aid to the Kunnamangalam P.C.C. Society, Malabar.

* 232 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether he has received a memorandum, dated 24th August 1953, from the President and Secretary of Kunnamangalam Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society Employees' Association, Malabar, requesting the Government to help the society for its stable existence and prevent retrenchment of employees of the society; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. As the society has since decided to continue the foodgrains business, no action was taken on the memorandum."